and to lay special emphasis upon recruitment to Group D posts from minority concentrated districts. Mobile Employment Exchanges have been visiting minority concentration areas for larger registration of minority candidates. The State Governments have also been advised to take special steps in the matter of recruitment of minority candidates in the State police forces and to set up review committees so as to ensure that there is no discrimination against the minorities. The University Grants Commission is running a scheme in 20 universities and 14 colleges to provide special coaching facilities to the minority candidates to enable them to compete for the various examinations conducted by the Central Government, the State Governments and the nationalised banks, etc.

Production and export of aluminium by NALCO

2596. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual production of aluminium in Orissa;

(b) whether NALCO in Orissa exports aluminium; if so, what is the price and terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) whether Government of Bahrin has signed an agreement with India to import aluminium from NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is still under construction and is in the process of gradually commissioning the aluminium smelter in consonance with the Captive Power Plant. At full-rated capacity, NALCO's Smelter Plant at Angul can produce 218,000 tonnes per annum of primary aluminium metal, when completed.

In addition, Indian Aluminium Company Limited (INDAL) has got an aluminium smelter at Hirakud, which has a capacity of producing 24,000 tonnes per annum of primary aluminium metal.

Production of primary aluminium metal during the current financial year is expected to be about 25,000 tonnes by NALCO and about 6,000 tonnes by INDAL in Orissa.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Opening of Indian Restaurants in Soviet Union

2597. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union have requested India to set up more Indian restaurants in that country; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) No specific request has been received for setting up more Indian Restaurants in the USSR. However, the possibility of setting up of hotels/restaurants in Soviet Union in collaboration with the private as well as public sector companies in India is being explored by the Government of USSR.

Second Sandzimir Mill for Salem Steel Plant

2598. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sanction of second Sandzimir Mill for Salem Steel Plant is pending with the Ministry of Steel and Mines;

(b) what amount was spent on this project and which has been locked up for want of the sanction; and

(c) what would be the additional production of stainless steel after this unit is established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has sanctioned installation of Second Sandzimir Mill at Salem Steel Plant on 2nd March, 1988. The Second mill will enable utilisation of a dormant investment of about Rs. 75 crores.

(c) There would be additional production of 38,000 tonnes of stainless steel sheets/coils.

Development of Meerut as a Priority Town of NCR

2599. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when the decision to develop Meerut district headquarters in Uttar Pradesh, as a priority town of the National Capital Region, with the purpose of reducing inflow of migrants to Delhi, was taken by the National Capital Region Planning Board;

(b) what is the respective share of the Central Government and the Uttar Pradesh Government for the development of this priority town and what is the actual/amount of financial assistance released by the Central Government and the U.P. Government, so far;

(c) by when the scheme is likely to be implemented in view of the progress made so far in this direction; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to accelerate implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The decision to develop Meerut as a priority town of the National Capital Region was taken in August, 1986 in the Interim Development Plan of the NCR Planning Board.

(b) Since the Board came into existence in 1985 an amount of Rs. 3.5 cr. was released by the NCR Planning Board for the projects in Meerut during 1985-86 and 1986-87. The corresponding amount released by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh is being collected from the State Government and will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt.

(c) and (d) The on-going projects are expected to be implemented by the end of the Seventh Plan.

Amendment to Pulses, Edible oils and Edible oilseeds (Storage and Control) Order

2600. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of recent amendments made to the Pulses, Edible Oils and Edible Oilseeds (Storage and Control) Order regarding reduction of stock limits and imposition of restrictions will be detrimental to consumers' interests as it will ultimately lead to shortages;

(b) whether Government are aware that the needs of the consumers can be met and price rise checked effectively only by augmenting supplies in the market; and

(c) what were the compelling circumstances for Government to impose such restrictions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) In the wake of the drought situation and because of low stocks of pulses and edible oils, certain amendments to the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977 were introduced to prevent hoarding of these commodities through imposing (i) restriction on transactions between the wholesalers; (ii) time limit for disposal of stocks by wholesalers; and (iii) reducing the stock limits of pulses to be held by wholesalers and retailers.